United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

ECE/TIM/INF/9

TIMBER AND FOREST INFORMATION SERIES

TIMBER COMMITTEE YEARBOOK

2002

UNITED NATIONS

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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
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Timber Section,
Geneva, Switzerland

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UNITED NATIONS
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NOTE

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ABSTRACT

The UNECE Timber Committee Yearbook 2002 contains an overview of the Committee's activities and bibliographical references for its publications. The Committee's activities include broadly: contributing to follow-up to UNCED and the pan European Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests; its annual session as well as those of its subsidiary bodies and teams of specialists; collection and analysis of statistics on forest products, forest products markets and forest resources; promotion of sustainable forestry; and assistance to countries in transition in central and eastern Europe.

THE UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE YEARBOOK 2001

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PREFACE

The *Yearbook* is intended to disseminate the information on the Timber Committee's activities among those for whom it would be most useful - experts in the fields under consideration. The aim is twofold: to provide an overview of the Committee's activities; and to provide bibliographical references, so that interested experts may obtain the necessary documents as quickly and easily as possible. The *Yearbook* cannot be an exhaustive account of all the Committee's activities, which are set out in the Committee's formal report and associated documents.

The development of the Timber Committee website (see address below) constitutes a complement to the *Yearbook* as it contains more detailed information on the numerous activities and is updated constantly.

Information about the publications or any other aspect of the Committee's work may be obtained by writing to the secretariat:

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I. THE TIMBER COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES IN 2001

1. Forest Resource Assessment 2000 - Temperate and Boreal Zones

The activities in this work area had been concentrated on the follow-up to the TBFRA-2000, which was published some 1.5 year ago in the report "*Forest Resources of Europe, CIS, North America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand*" *(industrialised temperate/boreal countries)*. The TBFRA accompanying papers, namely, the up-date of the Russian Federation data and the biodiversity analysis, as well as the CD-Rom with the TBFRA-2000 electronic database were finalised and published during the year 2001.

The Main TBFRA Report and the electronic database were posted in full on the Timber Committee web-site *<<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/fra/ >>*. The results of this round of the assessment were reviewed at the meeting of the ECE FRA team of specialists, held in June 2001 in Victoria (British Columbia, Canada). The ToS meeting report is presented in the Timber Committee document TIM/2001/7/Add.2. The results of the "*TBFRA-2000 Use and Policy Implications Survey*", which was presented to the Committee session in October 2001, are available in the document TIM/2001/7/Add.3. The Committee endorsed the TBFRA-2000 accomplishment, and expressed its high appreciation of the work done by the national correspondents, team of specialists, consultants, the secretariat and all those involved in the project.

The next meeting of the UNECE team of specialists on forest resources assessment, which is scheduled on May 2002 in Cracow (Poland), will review the follow-up work done during the last year and discuss the preparation for the next round of the temperate/boreal forest resources assessment. The preparation for the Global FRA Expert Consultation "Kotka-IV" was initiated on the autumn 2001

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2. Strategic review of the Committee's programme

Between autumn 2000 and October 2001, a strategic review was carried out of the integrated programme of work of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission. All aspects – objectives, methods, resources, priorities and programmes – were discussed in detail, on the basis of written comments from a wide variety of stakeholders. The main thrust of the programme was not substantially altered, but the formulation of the programme was improved, priorities were clarified and the allocation of secretariat resources decided. The roles of the different intergovernmental and expert level bodies were differentiated, streamlined and clarified.

In the revised work programme, five work areas are defined:

1. markets and statistics
2. forest resource assessment
3. forest sector outlook studies
4. forest technology, management and training
5. policy and cross sectoral issues

The broad lines of the integrated programme have been agreed for a four year period, with monitoring and management over that period delegated to the bureaux of the two bodies.

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3. Promotion of sustainable forest management in the region

Promotion of sustainable forest management is at the heart of the Timber Committee's preoccupations, and all parts of the programme contribute directly or indirectly this over-riding goal. However there are some areas where the Committee is making an especially focussed contribution:

- criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management: ECE/FAO participated actively in drawing up the first set of pan-European criteria and indicators, and provided data on these indicators to the 1998 Lisbon Ministerial Conference. Now it an active member of the MCPFE advisory group which is reviewing the pan-European indicators in the light of experience.
- Improved communication and transparency between actors in the sector, through activities in several related fields: public participation in forestry decision making, "forestry meets the public", partnerships in forestry, and the Forest Communicators Network.
- Addressing at the regional level some of the topics identified as important by the global dialogue on forests, for instance "strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood as an environmentally friendly and renewable raw material" (seminar in Romania in March 2003).

Cooperating closely with the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). In fact, about a third of the activities of the MCPFE programme of action for sustainable forest management in the region are being implemented by ECE/FAO, while there is close exchange of information and plans between ECE/FAO and MCPFE in every part of the programme.

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4. European Forest Sector Outlook Studies (EFSOS)

The main objective of this project is to analyse the future possible developments of the forest and forest industry sector in Europe, including CIS, considering challenges and uncertainties of varying policies, market developments and the influence of exogenous factors (e.g. climate change). The outcomes should assist policy and investment decision-making. The main target groups are policy makers, entrepreneurs and the academic community of the forest and forest products sector as well as the public in general.

The EFSOS project was highly evaluated during the strategic review of the Integrated Programme of Work, where it got a strong support and was considered as one of the core elements. The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics reviewed the EFSOS project during its session in 2001, putting an emphasis on quality of the baseline study and its presentation to the Ministerial Conference in 2003. The ToS and the Working Party recognised that combining the knowledge, skills and capacities of a large group of forest sector outlook study experts is essential for the success of EFSOS both in terms of quality and keeping deadlines.

The first step into the project is a baseline study, consisting of historical analysis of driving forces, base line scenarios ("business as usual") on forest resources and forest products markets and alternative policy scenarios. The baseline study components are at different stages of elaboration. The secretariat has given special emphasis to the policy orientation of the EFSOS project. Furthermore, a first complementary case study was initiated under the title "Outlook Study on the Forest Sector of the Russian Federation". The first drafts are expected to be presented to the EFSOS meeting to be held from 27-29 May 2002 in Geneva.

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5. Forest products markets

The Timber Committee published two issues of the *Timber Bulletin* on "Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2000-2001" and "Forest Products Markets in 2001 and Prospects for 2002". In addition a *Geneva Timber and Forest Study Paper* on the "Status of Forest Certification in the ECE Region: Summer 2001" was based on a new source of information, i.e., an informal country correspondent network with nominated experts reporting of developments in certification of sustainable forest management and certified forest products markets. These and other key statistics form the basis of the developing Market Information Service on the Timber Committee website at: http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/mis/mis.htm

The major highlights from the *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2000-2001* were:

- Consumption of forest products continued to climb to new records in 2000 in the region covered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), despite a slight downturn in North America.
- European forest products trade and production accelerated in 2000 in response to strong demand within the EU/EFTA subregion, growing consumption in central and eastern Europe and rising demand outside Europe.
- Strong housing construction in North America fostered growth in the panel sector; however, a mid-2000 peak in sawnwood production, combined with a downturn in the paper and pulp sector, may signal an end to the long-term rise in consumption of total forest products.
- December 1999 windstorms in western Europe felled almost 200 million m^3 of roundwood, the equivalent of two years' harvest in the most affected countries, causing chaos in forests and timber markets, especially for logs and pulpwood, but lesser effects on other downstream sectors.
- Excess roundwood supply in Europe depressed prices in 2000 and 2001 and despite strong domestic and export demand, sawnwood prices moved lower too.
- North American sawn softwood prices exhibited cyclical trends, rising from near record lows in mid-2000 to shoot up again in early 2001, in part due to the expiration of the United States –Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement (however, sawn softwood prices were falling again in mid-2001).
- Russian Federation forest products consumption showed the first signs of recovery in 2000, rising 7%, despite significantly higher exports of paper and wood products, boosted partly by a weaker rouble.
- Central and eastern European countries forest products markets generally outperformed other subregions of the UNECE, but on substantially smaller volumes.
- After the peak in mid-2000 of the global business cycle, North American and European economies slowed considerably, which, together with currency fluctuations, especially the strengthening dollar and weakening euro, negatively affected international trade in the second half of 2000 and 2001.
- Certified forest land area doubled from 2000 to 2001, to reach 80 million hectares in the UNECE region.
- In Europe, PEFC-labelled certified forest products became available in 2000 in addition to FSC-labelled products; SFI-labelled products are expected in North America later in 2001.

At its October, 2001 session the UNECE Timber Committee examined the forest products market situation in 2001 and forecasted markets in 2002 for sawn softwood, sawn hardwood, wood-based panels, pulp and paper, wood raw materials and certified forest products. The overall findings were:

- Forest products markets in the UNECE region were at record high levels in 2000, but forecasts for 2001 were for a decline in many markets, followed by general improvement in 2002. However, the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States have cast uncertainty on the forecasts.
- In light of the economic downturn in 2001, the Timber Committee stated that it is imperative to develop new wood products and to establish new markets to meet consumers' needs.

- The Committee reasserted the importance for the forest products industry to work internationally to promote the environmental advantages of the sustainable production of wood.

The Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission established a new UNECE and FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing which held its inaugural meeting on 1-3 October 2001 during the Timber Committee session.

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6. Forest Economics and Statistics

The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics met in May 2001. It discussed and reviewed work on outlook studies, forest resource assessment, statistics and market analysis, all reported elsewhere in this document. It was informed of the continuing successful inter-organisation cooperation through the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics, which has streamlined processes for data collection, validation, sharing and publishing by the four partners in the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (UNECE, FAO, Eurostat, ITTO).

In the context of the strategic review the role of the Working Party has been re-focussed on the interface between the policy level (Timber Committee, EFC) and the expert groups and teams of specialists. The Working Party, which is intergovernmental in nature, is expected to provide "guidance" to expert activities in three of the five work areas: markets and statistics, forest resource assessment and sector outlook studies. To carry out this guidance role effectively, the Working Party will, from now on, meet annually, rather than every two years.

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7. The role of women in the forestry sector in Europe and North America

The seminar was held in Viseu in April 2001 at the invitation of the Government of Portugal and under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training in cooperation with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Some member countries have started to collect information about women in forestry or more broadly about gender aspects. This is commendable, but much more is needed for an adequate understanding of the current and potential roles and participation of men and women in forestry. More and better information is not only essential to guide policies and strategies promoting greater equality and participation of women, but also to raise the visibility of women in the sector. This is particularly important in the countries in transition as the ongoing restitution of forest land or compensation to private owners as well as the changes in the forestry labour market.

Access for women to forest-related information, training and education is fundamental. Efforts should be made early to reach both male female school children with the message that forestry has a stewardship function and that it welcomes women as employees, owners and users of the forest and generates a positive attitude. Women need to receive information about training and education, dispelling the misconception that forestry, like other branches of science and engineering, is not suitable for women. Emphasis on stewardship and sustainability and the relevance of forestry to society will contribute to a more positive image. The content as well as the delivery of training and extension need to be adapted to the needs and expectations of women, which in many cases are different from those of men.

Legislation and programmes to implement positive and deliberate steps towards equality should be put in place and adherence to them monitored. The measures should provide for transparent selection and promotion procedures. In field work, adaptations of working conditions and work methods should be made to reduce the physical workload and to make the jobs more attractive to women. The forestry sector should explicitly include a gender dimension in policies and strategies such as the national forestry programmes and encourage the participation of women in all areas.

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8. New trends in harvesting with cable cranes

The Joint Committee workshop on New Trends in Wood Harvesting with Cable Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Mountains was held at the Forestry Training Centre in Ossiach, Austria, in June 2001. The workshop reviewed the state of the art technology and concluded that cable systems in combination with a suitable road network constituted an environmentally friendly technology supporting sustainable forest management in mountainous terrain. Cable systems were crucial to the extraction of wood from steep sites and other sensitive areas that were unsuitable for ground-based systems. Regional and international cooperation in the area of cable harvesting were essential, given the scarce resources and human expertise at the country level. Centres of excellence in cable harvesting needed to be identified and supported as well as the development of national priorities and international agreements. There was a need to review legal provisions for harvesting on steep slopes; existing restrictions for steep slope extraction may be adjusted to enable low impact harvesting technologies.

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9. Forestry meets the public

The seminar on Forestry meets the public was held in Walkringen, Switzerland in October 2001, under the auspices of the Joint Committee. Forests will not be able to provide the full range of potential benefits to society without adequate communication. The demands of society on forests are evolving. They have become more diverse, opening up new opportunities to provide services and in some cases to generate additional income. Demands can be conflicting, both between forestry and the public as well as among different groups of forest users. Forestry needs to match this diversity with an equally varied offer of forest management solutions and to reconcile conflicts of interest. This requires a two-way flow of information and dialogue.

Communication is a complex task in forestry. It has to cope with a broad range of subjects, attempt to reach a variety of target groups and adapt to different geographical levels. For communication to be effective, the combination of these and other factors require customized strategies. At least three complementary approaches to communication are available to forestry: public relations; forest-related environmental education; and public participation.

Public participation has only recently been added to the toolkit of forestry communicators and is merely beginning to be used. There is a general expectation that it will prove a valuable way of spreading messages to and of obtaining information from forest users and interested groups. It thus contributes to raising awareness and to promoting acceptance of forestry practices. This support can lead to alliances and partnerships and also translate into political and financial support for forestry.

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10. Assistance to countries in transition of central and eastern Europe

In 2001 the Timber Committee continued to implement activities aimed to assist the CEEC forestry sectors. An example is the excellent cooperation with the MCPFE workshop on *Forests and Forestry in Central and Eastern European Countries – the Transition Process and Challenges Ahead*. The workshop was held in Poland in conjunction with the meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Countries in Transition.

Another successful international workshop on the *Changing Role of State Forests* was held in Salzburg, Austria in July 2001, and hosted by the Austrian Federal Forest Corp, Österreichische Bundesforste AG (ÖBf AG). This event was the second workshop in a series, and had attracted strong support from the participants. Ireland offered to host the next workshop on the subject, possibly under the title *Future Development of the State Forest Sector* to be organised by *Coillte Teoranta* in mid September 2002. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

The Timber Committee secretariat has continued the implementation of its mandate as international coordinator for Helsinki resolution H3 on forestry assistance to countries in transition. The electronic database, which includes the information on the topic supplied by national correspondents on a project by project basis, has been further developed and up-dated in 2001. It will serve as a basis for the preparation of the next interim report on the H3 implementation.

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11. Public relations in forestry

The FAO-UNECE Forest Communicators Network [1/] met in Zvolen, Slovakia in May 2001, a site deemed beneficial for its mandated work on capacity building of public relations capabilities in the forest and forest industries sector in central and eastern European countries. This international network of PR specialists grew considerably with the International Forest Communicators Forum 2000, and now includes 35 countries within the ECE region which have participated in the Team's activities. Its meeting in Slovakia advanced their mandate in the following areas:

- The FCN Subgroup on Consumer Activities will produce a report on consumer attitudes towards forestry and wood products by the end of 2001 and then establish a market intelligence system on the same subject area
- The FCN Subgroup on Best Public Relations Practices will prepare a compendium by the 2002 FCN meeting.
- The FCN Extranet Subgroup will further develop their FCN intranet by end of summer 2001.
- The FCN Subgroup on Building Capacity in Central and Eastern European Countries will produce a report based on their findings from a survey of the FCN network by end of summer 2001.
- The FCN Subgroup on European Forums for Forest and Society will initiate planning to conduct the first event in Finland in 2002 or 2003 and identify future hosts for EFFS.
- The FCN will make a presentation to the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee seminar on "Forestry meets the public" seminar in October 2001 in Switzerland.

[1/] Formally the FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector.

- A formal liaison between the FCN and the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee's Team of Specialists on Public Participation was established.

- A link to the new IUFRO task force on public relations was initiated.

- The FCN discussed its extended mandate and the annex to this report to show the links between FCN activities and mandated tasks.
- The FCN supports continued country profiles by the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission, including listing on each country profile a statistical contact and a FCN contact.

- The roles of the FCN in relation to the UN Forum on Forestry (UNFF) could be to raise public awareness, facilitate policy dialogue and formulation and facilitate implementation. The FCN should also inform national delegations of the importance, means and strategies of public relations and the need for capacity building. The proposals for action coming from the IPF and IFF processes and the programmes of the UNFF will provide references and opportunities for public relations activities in individual FCN member's work. On a European level, resolution L1 from the Lisbon Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe has public relations agreements which request communications activities.

At the meeting in Slovakia, several wood promotion campaigns were highlighted, for example, the new Wood Promotion Network in North America with its goal of reducing the market risk from substitution efforts and forest use campaigns by growing the market in the long term, showcasing wood's attributes and demonstrating that forests are abundant and growing.

More information on the Team and its activities may now be found on its website within the Timber Committee site. Presently the site includes subdivisions of its mandate, meetings, members, publications and coming activities.

II. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2001 AND 2002

This section is intended to provide readers with information on the Committee's forthcoming activities. It is not a definitive programme, as additions or deletions sometimes have to be made at fairly short notice. Meetings are formally announced by the circulation of a provisional agenda at least three months before their scheduled date, and a press release is also issued.

Attendance at seminars, symposia and study tours organized by the Committee is open to experts in the subjects to be discussed, with permission of their Governments. Further information about all this activities is available on request from the secretariat.

The Timber Committee's annual session

The Timber Committee meets annually generally in Geneva. Its session in 2002 will be held from 24-27 September. The main items on the agenda are: international dialogue on forests, support to the global and regional processes; review of recent developments and prospects in the coming year in the forest products markets; review of activities of its subsidiary bodies and of meetings held over the previous year under joint auspices, international cooperation.

Technical Excursion to the Federal Republic of Germany

A technical excursion is being organised in the new Länder of Germany on the theme "Forestry and forest industry in the new Länder - a decade after reunification". The dates are 2-6 June 2002. Participants will be briefed on policy issues, privatisation, markets and trade between Germany and eastern Europe, and visit forest and timber enterprises.

A full programme and registration form for intending participants may be found at the Committee's website.

Statistics

The Committee will continue to publish its regular statistics in the *Timber Bulletin*, on forest products production and trade, trade flows of forest products, the monthly prices for forest products, and the results of the annual enquiry on forest fire.

Forest products markets

Other issues of the *Timber Bulletin* will contain the Committee's regular review and analyses of short-term developments in forest products markets. The annual forest products market review covers trends in the previous year and is published in July/August. The results of the Committee's discussions at its annual session, when it prepares forecasts for the current and forthcoming year, are issued in November.

Forest Economics and Statistics

The FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics meets yearly. It will hold its twenty-fourth session in Geneva from 8-10 April 2002. It will review the European Forest Sector Outlook Studies (EFSOS), Forest Resource Assessment, Market analysis and forecasts and collection and dissemination of statistics and interorganization cooperation in this field.

Assistance to countries in transition of central and eastern Europe

At its annual sessions the Committee reviews its programme of assistance to countries in transition on the basis of recommendations of the team of specialists to ensure that it fulfils the expectations of this group of countries. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the workshop on forests and forestry in central and eastern European countries, the transition process and challenges ahead.

Country profiles on transition countries of central and eastern Europe will continue to be published.

Forest technology management and training

The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee and its Steering Committee meet in alternate years. The Joint Committee will hold its twenty-fourth session from 12-14 September 2002 in Ireland in conjunction with the seminar on afforestation. More complete information on the Joint Committee activities can be found at the website: www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee. The following seminars and workshops will be organized in 2002 under the auspices of the Joint Committee:

Title: **Seminar on partnerships in forestry**

Date: 3-7 June 2002

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Objectives: Forestry in Europe and North America, as in other parts of the world, is confronted with new challenges in the twenty-first century. The level and diversity of the goods and services needed and demanded by society continues to increase. Forests are expected to contribute more to environmental protection and to preserving bio-diversity, as well as to accommodate rising numbers of visitors. At the same time, demand for timber is rising, albeit slowly. The public also wants to have a say in the way forests are managed. Sustainable forest management and multiple-use forestry have thus become complex objectives to define, let alone to deliver. Partnerships in forest policy and management can make this task easier and lead to better outcomes.

Target groups: The seminar is intended for all persons working with or in forests, forestry and forest industry:

- Forest policy makers
- Forest service officials
- Private and public forest owners
- Forest managers
- Forest industry
- Environmental and other non-governmental organizations
- Representatives of local governments
- Researchers and educators

Especially those people involved in multi-lateral partnerships are welcome to attend the seminar.

Title:	**Seminar on afforestation in the context of sustainable forest management**
Date:	15-19 September 2002
Location:	Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland
Objectives:	The seminar will offer the opportunity to exchange and share experience on current developments in afforestation in Ireland. It will, in particular, discuss issues on sustainable forest operations and techniques and biological, ecological, social and economic aspects of afforestation.
Target groups:	All forest professionals, forest owners, managers, forest industries, policy decision makers, research institutes, environmentalists and land-use specialists.

III. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Timber Committee publications (other than reports and associated documents) have been organized since 1994, into the following five series:

Timber Bulletin	ECE/TIM/BULL/xx/x
Timber and Forest Study Papers	ECE/TIM/SP/x
Timber and Forest Discussion Papers	ECE/TIM/DP/x
Timber and Forest Information Series	ECE/TIM/INF/x
Timber and Forest Seminar and Workshop Proceedings	no symbol

The Committee publishes the ***Timber Bulletin***, which provides regularly, detailed information on the forest products sector: statistics on production, removals, trade (total and by origin and destination), prices; the results of an annual survey on forest fires; analyses of market developments and prospects for the coming year. The contents of the ***Timber Bulletin*** in 2001 are set out in the bibliography.

The ***Timber and Forest Study Papers*** are composed of the European Timber Trends and Prospects Study (ETTS V), Forest and Forest Products Country Profiles, Forest Resource Assessment publications, medium-term surveys of the structure and capacity of the wood-based panels and sawmilling industries, and other special studies. The ***Timber and Forest Discussion Papers*** are intended to be a means of distributing current topical information in the forest and forest industries sector which might or might not become part of a more comprehensive study at some later time. Unlike the ***Timber Bulletin*** and the ***Study Papers***, the ***Discussion Papers*** have limited input from the secretariat and are published in their original language. ***Timber and Forest Seminar and Workshop Proceedings*** are not published by the secretariat, but by the host country of such activities, this explains why there is no identification code. Finally, the ***Timber and Forest Information Series*** which consists of this ***Timber Committee Yearbook***, plus ***Facts about*** ... the Committee and its two subsidiary bodies, which presents background information and activities of each of these bodies. A comprehensive list of publications appears at the back of this ***Yearbook***.

Issues of the ***Timber Bulletin*** are available on subscription (see below). Unless otherwise indicated, other documents are available on request, free of charge from the secretariat, while stocks last. Set out below are bibliographical references to those documents issued under the Committee's auspices in 2000, the **documents are described under the same headings as the text of the *Yearbook***. Further information may be obtained from the Timber Section secretariat (see address on page iv).

1. FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Forest Resources of Europe, CIS, North America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand (ECE/TIM/SP/17)
UNECE/FAO Team of specialists on forest resources assessment (TIM/2001/7/Add.2)
TBFRA-2000 Use and policy implications survey: preliminary analysis of users' feedback and report (TIM/2001/7/Add.3)

2. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME

Strategic review of the ECE Timber Committee/FAO European Forestry Commission programme of work (TIM/2001/2)

3. PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE REGION

International dialogue on forests, support to the global regional processes (TIM/2001/4)

4. EUROPEAN FOREST SECTOR OUTLOOK STUDIES

European Forest Sector Outlook Studies (EFSOS): progress report, plans for the next two years (TIM/EFC/WP.2/2001/2)

5. FOREST PRODUCTS MARKETS

Timber Bulletin Forest Products Annual Market Review, 1999-2000 (ECE/TIM/BULL/54/4)

The ***Timber Bulletin*** consists of 6 issues a year and is available on an annual subscription. For further information, those interested are invited to contact the United Nations Distribution and Sales Unit, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland (Fax NE: +41 22 917 00 27).

The contents of the ***Timber Bulletin*** in 2001, Vol. LIV, was as follows:

Title:	Issue:
Forest Products Prices, 1998-2000	ECE/TIM/BULL/54/1
Forest Products Statistics, 1996-2000	ECE/TIM/BULL/54/2
Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2000-2001	ECE/TIM/BULL/54/3
Forest Fire Statistics, 1998-2000	ECE/TIM/BULL/54/4
Forest Products Trade Flow Data, 1999-2000	ECE/TIM/BULL/54/5
Forest Products Markets in 2001 and Prospects for 2002	ECE/TIM/BULL/54/6

RELEVANT FAO STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

(Available from: Distribution and Sales Section, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, I-00100 Rome)

FAO Yearbook of Forest Products 2000
State of the World's Forests 2001

6. FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

Report of the twenty-third session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, Geneva (TIM/EFC/WP.2/2001/8)

7. THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Report of the seminar (TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.50/2)

8. NEW TRENDS IN HARVESTING WITH CABLE CRANES

Report of the workshop (TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.51/2)

9. FORESTRY MEETS THE PUBLIC

Report of the seminar (TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.52/2)

10. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Report to the Timber Committee: Programme of Work: (TIM/2001/8)

Report on the implementation of resolution H3

The H3 database in ACCESS format is periodically updated and posted at the Timber Committee Website

Forest and forest products country profiles

11. PUBLIC RELATIONS IN FORESTRY

FAO/ECE Forest communicators network meeting (TIM/2001/8/Add.1)

IV. LIST OF MEETINGS IN 2002 AND 2003

Note: The meetings are sub-divided into two categories: meetings marked (A) are open to delegates or approved representatives from all member countries of ECE was well as from other countries that are members of the United Nations and organizations accredited to ECE (or to FAO and ILO, in the case of meetings co-sponsored by them). Meetings marked (B) are those restricted to the countries or individuals nominated by their countries to take part in the activity concerned, e.g. a team of specialists. At the Committee's website (http://unece.org/trade/timber) an up-to-date calendar of meetings, can be consulted

Dates	Location	Title
2002		
8-10 April	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, twenty-fourth session (A)
29-30 April	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee (B)
6-10 May	Riga, Latvia	Meeting of the ECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network (B)
22-24 May	Poland	Meeting of the team of specialists on forest resource assessment (B)
27-29 May	Geneva	Meeting of specialists and national correspondents on European Forest Sector Outlook Studies (B)
2-6 June	Germany	Joint ECE Timber Committee, FAO European Forestry Commission technical excursion (A)
3-7 June	Brussels, Belgium	Seminar on partnerships in forestry (A)
11-13 September	Ireland	Workshop on future development of the state forest sector (A)
12-14 September	Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, twenty-fourth session (A)
15-19 September	Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland	Seminar on afforestation in the context of sustainable forest management (A)
23-25 September	Geneva	Meeting of the ECE/FAO team of specialists on forest products markets and marketing (B)
24- 27 September	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, sixtieth session (A)
4-8 November	Barcelona, Spain	FAO European Forestry Commission, thirty-first session (A)

Dates	Location	Title
2003		
March (to be decided)	Geneva	Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, 25th session (A)
24-28 March	Poiana Brasov, Romania	Seminar on strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials (A)
April (to be decided)	Antalya, Turkey	Seminar on forest fire (A)
May (to be decided)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee (B)
September (to be decided)	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 61st session (A)
(to be decided)	(to be decided)	Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 16th session (B)
(to be decided)	Portugal	Joint ECE Timber Committee, FAO European Forestry Commission study tour (A)
(to be decided)	Slovakia	Seminar on close to nature forestry (A)
(to be decided)	Sweden (to be determined)	Seminar on biodiversity from concept to practice (A)

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE TIMBER COMMITTEE

The Timber Committee is a principal subsidiary body of the ECE (UN Economic Commission for Europe), based in Geneva. It constitutes a forum for cooperation and consultation between member countries on forestry, forest industry and forest product matters. All countries of Europe; the former USSR; United States of America, Canada and Israel are members of the ECE and participate in its work.

The ECE Timber Committee shall, within the context of sustainable development, provide member countries with the information and services needed for policy- and decision-making regarding their forest and forest industry sector ("the sector"), including the trade and use of forest products and, when appropriate, formulate recommendations addressed to member Governments and interested organizations. To this end, it shall:

1. With the active participation of member countries, undertake short-, medium- and long-term analyses of developments in, and having an impact on, the sector, including those offering possibilities for the facilitation of international trade and for enhancing the protection of the environment;

2. In support of these analyses, collect, store and disseminate statistics relating to the sector, and carry out activities to improve their quality and comparability;

3. Provide the framework for cooperation e.g. by organizing seminars, workshops and *ad hoc* meetings and setting up time-limited *ad hoc* groups, for the exchange of economic, environmental and technical information between governments and other institutions of member countries that is needed for the development and implementation of policies leading to the sustainable development of the sector and to the protection of the environment in their respective countries;

4. Carry out tasks identified by the UNECE or the Timber Committee as being of priority, including the facilitation of subregional cooperation and activities in support of the economies in transition of central and eastern Europe and of the countries of the region that are developing from an economic point of view;

5. It should also keep under review its structure and priorities and cooperate with other international and intergovernmental organizations active in the sector, and in particular with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and its European Forestry Commission and with the ILO (International Labour Organisation), in order to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication, thereby optimizing the use of resources.

More information about the Committee's work may be obtained by writing to:

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UNECE Trade Division
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CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
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E-mail: info.timber@unece.org
Web site address: http://www.unece.org/trade/timber

UNECE/FAO Publications

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Timber Bulletin Volume LIV (2001) ECE/TIM/BULL/54/...

1. Forest Products Prices
2. Forest Products Statistics (database from 1964 available on website)
3. Forest Products Annual Market Review
4. Forest Fire Statistics
5. Forest Products Trade Flow Data
6. Forest Products Markets in *(current year)* and Prospects for *(forthcoming year)*

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Forest and Forest Products Country Profile: Russian Federation (Country profiles also exist on Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia and Ukraine)	ECE/TIM/SP/18
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